



LAFAYETTE COMMISSION

ON THE NEEDS

OF WOMEN

Serving the Lafayette Community Since 1976



JANUARY 2008

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

2008 Commission Members

Tonya Bolden-Ball,
President
Lupe Acosta,
President-elect
Sandra Moore,
Secretary/Liaison
Germaine Breaux,
Treasurer
Linda Armstrong,
Parliamentarian
Carol Coreil,
Historian
LaKisha L. Varner,
Member at Large
Rose Hoffman-Cormier,
Past President
Marguerita Auguillard
Twana Benoit
Linda Boudreaux
Paula Duncan
Tahanna Francis
Amy Fuselier
LaKeta Glenn
Billi LaCombe
Linda Miller
Lana Ross Mixon
Tracy Mouton
Judith Perez

Commission's Purpose:

The purpose of the Commission, as established by Section 7-90 of the City Charter, shall be to facilitate an awareness of the status and needs of women in the city, parish and state; to provide input at the local level regarding the concerns of women in the community; to make recommendations for policies that affect the needs of women; to evaluate and improve the role of women in the community and in the state; to promote programs to meet these needs; and to serve as a clearing house for information and services available to women in the community.

Greetings from the President



This year, as president, has been a very rewarding one. I have seen the best in the women of the Commission. Thanks to all the committee chairs and committees for their commitment to the women of our community. Another very special thank you goes out to our president-elect, Tonya Bolden-Ball, who was always supportive and helpful during my presidency.

I want to personally thank the Publicity Committee members and all the Commission members, including the Executive Committee and especially Sandra Moore, our secretary/liaison and Cindy Simien, for all of the assistance with helping to make our 13th Annual Women of Excellence Awards so successful. We had almost 280 people in attendance. Also, having the Girl's of Hope from N.P. Moss Middle School attend our awards luncheon was wonderful.

The Health Committee with many other Commission members participated in the Women's Health Fair at the Mall of Acadiana. This was a great opportunity to educate the community about the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women.

In ending, I would like to share some words of wisdom from two important women. First, Dr. Maya Angelou on her thoughts of growing older and a poem on "beauty tips" by Audrey Hepburn:

Dr. Maya Angelou: "I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow. I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life. I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life." I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back. I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision. I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Audrey Hepburn: For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry. For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day. For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone. People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone. Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms. As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.

LCNW TALENT BANK

The LCNW Lafayette Talent Bank of Women is continuing to accept resumes of women interested in being appointed to consolidated government boards and commissions.

Operating independently of any existing talent bank, the Lafayette Talent Bank of Women is designed to increase the number of women considered for and appointed to local Boards and Commissions. Serving as a registry for women interested in, and qualified to serve, on various Boards and Commissions, the talent bank will identify and recommend qualified women to Boards and Commissions in our city and parish. Any registered voter residing in Lafayette Parish is eligible to register with the Lafayette Talent Bank of Women.

***If you would like additional information about the Lafayette Talent Bank of Women, contact the LCNW at 337-291-8447.*

Commission News

LCNW History

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy established the President's Commission on the Status of Women. States as well as cities followed his lead by establishing state and local commissions.

Because of the efforts of five women, Dr. Sarah Brabant, Dr. Doris Bentley, Isabel Gant, Margaret Gimbrede, and Jessie Livingston Taylor, Lafayette became the second city in Louisiana to establish a commission. They were instrumental in leading the steering committee that drafted a proposal for the commission, with assistance from the State Governor's Commission and the support of Mayor Kenneth F. Bowen, which was presented to the City Council.

As a result of their efforts, in 1976, the City Council concurring with the Mayor's recommendation passed a resolution establishing the Mayor's Commission on the Needs of Women now known as the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women. Past administrations have supported the Commission throughout the years. The Commission maintains twenty members on its board. The members are appointed by the City-Parish President on recommendations from the Executive Committee of the Commission.

The Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women, Woman's Foundation, Inc. and *The Times of Acadiana* were proud to sponsor this year's 13th Annual Women of Excellence Awards. The awards luncheon was held on Fri., Oct. 5, 11:00am - 1:00pm, at the City Club at River Ranch. For thirteen years, the Commission has honored women who have attained outstanding levels of achievement and whose contributions have made a significant impact upon the lives of our citizens.

Mary Farmer-Kaiser, Ph.D. was this year's keynote speaker. Her presentation was "Girls can be Cowboys, too! Teaching our Girls (and Boys) about Gender Roles, Today and Throughout History".

Those honored were Kathleen M. Handy, Ph.D.; Linda L. Bordelon; Fran Clarke, LCSW, BCD, FAMI; Mary Broussard Perrin; Connie Dalcour Brown; Phena Guidry; Kitty Joseph; Jacqueline R. Benedik, M.S., CHES; Ellen Dawn Cook, M.S., CPA; and Grace Hamilton Mayfield.

Woman's Foundation, Inc. also presented the Care and Concern for Women and Families Award. This honor is given annually to a non-profit organization that has dedicated itself to improving the lives of women and families in our community. This year's recipient was Camp Bon Coeur.



2007 Women of Excellence Honorees

Front row (l to r): Linda Bordelon, Ellen Cook, Dr. Kathleen Handy, Kitty Joseph, Phena Guidry

Back row (l to r): Fran Clarke, Mary Perrin, Grace Mayfield, Jacqueline Benedik, Connie Brown

"Girls of Hope" from N. P. Moss Middle attend Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon

(Kim Hypolite, Principal)



Community News:

- Connections – Women's Networking Organization – Luncheon meetings the 1st Friday of each month at Buffet City at 12:00 noon, networking begins at 11:30am. For more information call 236-8252.
- Woman's Foundation, Inc. – Body Talk, Beyond Body Talk and Sex, Truth & Consequences – Puberty programs for girls and boys, ages 10-12, 12-14 (with parent) & 15-18. For more information call 988-1816.
- Woman's Foundation, Inc. – Safe Sitter – Babysitting program for girls and boys, ages 11-15. For more information call 988-1816.
- The League of Women Voters meets monthly at City Hall. For more information contact Thetis Cusimano at 337-504-2200.

A special thanks to the following sponsors for the "Girls of Hope"

- Elizabeth Dugal
- L.W. Thomas and Associates
- Joseph R. Joy III
- Billi Lacombe
- Jennifer Hightower
- Glenn Armentor
- Melanie Lewis
- Leo Bolden
- Tiffanie Lewis
- Chuck's T-Shirts
- Shawn Wilson
- Heather Zehner
- Kenneth Boudreaux
- Tonya Bolden-Ball
- Woman's Foundation
- Gerald Boudreaux
- Robert Benoit
- Jerry Prejean
- Lisa Thomas

LCNW attends Annual Health Expo at Acadiana Mall



*Pictured are LCNW Health Committee Members:
(left to right: Judith Perez, Tracy Mouton, Marguerita Auguillard)*

LCNW attends Faith House (crisis shelter for women & children) "Women Helping Women Luncheon" at River Oaks



LCNW President Rose Cormier welcomes those in attendance to the luncheon.



*Seated: Rose Cormier, Tonya Ball
Standing (l to r): Tracy Mouton, Ola Prejean, Sandra Moore, Amy Fuselier, Billi LaCombe, LaKisha Varner, Judith Perez, Marguerita Auguillard*

Farewell from Linda Boudreaux...



As I approach the end of my third term with the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women, it seems appropriate to reflect back on the last nine years. The time has flown by and it is amazing to me how quickly the years have passed.

It is both an honor and a responsibility to serve on the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women. I remember feeling excited and a little overwhelmed at my first Commission meeting back in February, 1999. The room was filled with dynamic women who were committed to addressing the needs of women and children in our city, parish, state and nation. I wasn't sure where I would fit in or how the whole thing would fit together. Now I think I know – or at least have a clue.

What I will remember and treasure most about my time with the Commission are the many wonderful women with whom I have served. Together we have developed our leadership skills and our ability to collaborate and reach out to others. From our founding members to those who have just begun their service, each member has brought her unique gifts to the Commission. It is through those gifts, vision and hard work that the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women will continue to be a voice for inclusion and opportunity for all women.



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We're on the Web!
www.lafayettela.gov

Lafayette Commission on the Needs of
Women is a member of the National
Association of Commissions for Women.



The National Association of
Commissions for Women (NACW)
is committed to equality and
justice for women
by increasing the effectiveness of
member commissions and serving
as their national voice.



Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women Members

Front row (l to r): Ola Prejean, Lupe Acosta, Rose Cormier, Tonya Ball, Sandra Moore

Back row (l to r): LaKisha Varner, Germaine Breaux, Tracy Mouton, Marguerita Anguillard, Twana Benoit, Paula Duncan, Amy Fuselier, Linda Armstrong, Linda Boudreaux, Tabanna Francis, Judith Perez

Not pictured: Carol Coreil, LaKeta Glenn, Billi LaCombe, Linda Miller, Lana Mixon